sold. The paddies of the average farmer in Siaton and Zamboanguita are so small that they cannot produce sufficient rice to last the families through the year. About 23 per cent of the cultivated land is also occupied by coconut palms. In Pamplona is one of the largest coconut plantations in Negros; it is owned and managed by Americans. Generally, however, coconut plantings vary from 5 to 15 acres and are owned by Filipinos. Many families have a few coconut trees that provide their chief cash income. Coconut palms usually appear along the littoral where the sandy soils are too well-drained for other crops and the internal drainage from the Central Mountain range favors coconut cultivation. Coconuts, however, are frequently planted along field boundaries and extend toward the interior of many parts of this region.

Coconut palms begin to bear as early as five years after planting and often produce nuts when a century old. The Laguna variety is common in this region; it is an early-bearing tree that usually produces nuts after eight or ten years. The fresh coconut meat is dried under the sun or in crude, smoky ovens, tapahans. The dried meat is known as copra and is the chief export of Dumaguete port; in 1951 it amounted to more than $5,000,000. The prosperity of this region is closely tied to copra prices. When prices are high, for example, enrollment in both public and private schools rises; but when copra prices fall school enrollments decrease

TABLE XXXIII

Cost of Building a Quinavite Fish Corral[54]
Ragay Gulf, Luzon - 1938

Material and Labor	Quantity	Cost (Dollars)
Materials		
Palma brava (bahe) @ 30¢ each	500	150
Bamboos (bolo or boho) @ $10 per 1,000	2,000	20
Rattan @ $1.50 per 1,000	20,000	30
Bamboo for raft (balsa) and bridge (vela) of the tawanik variety @ $6 per 100	200	12
Cotton (twine) net (siguin)	1	150
Banca		
Cost of splitting 2,000 bolo @ $10 per 1,000		20
Cost of weaving mattings		
Body of 14 pieces (bantasan) @ $2.90 each[55]	14	40.60
Leader of 20 pieces(bantasan) @ $2.90 each	20	58
Labor (contract)		
First maestro [foreman ?]		30
Second maestro		25
Seven men at $7.50 each		52.50
Total Cost		$713.10

Comparing the costs of the Quinavite of Ragay Gulf and the bonsod of Malabuhan, the materials for the former cost $212, for the latter $431. The cost of the fishing net and boat (banca) were $610 in Malabuhan and

[54] Umali, op. cit., p. 189. The date the fish corral was built is not given; the article was published in 1938.

[55] Each bantasan was about 69 feet long.

$275 in Ragay Gulf. These figures illustrate the inflation that has occurred in the Philippines since 1938.

Table XXXIV, at the end of this chapter, lists the local, English and scientific names (whenever possible) of fish caught in Siaton bonsods; Table XXXV gives the frequency of their catch and class accorded them by people living in both the barrio and Siaton poblacion.[1]

Construction of the Fish Corral

Construction of bonsods in Siaton begins in late October or early November. Bonsods are built, for the most part, between Malabuhan and Salag Point; few bonsods are erected west of Salag Point because the coral sea floor makes it almost impossible to embed the posts. (See Plates XLIV and XLV.) In the past the long bamboos needed to build a bonsod could be cut in Caticugan and other barrios near the sea. Today bamboo is cut in Lamtoc, Balanan, and Casala-an and floated as rafts down the river since nearby bamboo resources have been exhausted. Some fish corral owners advance to the cutters in the barrios part of the money to be paid for the bamboo with full payment made on delivery. Long thick poles usually cost about twenty cents each; in Tanjay similar bamboos are reported to bring twice this amount.

Most of the rattan obtained to build the bonsods comes from Tolong municipality. The people said that once rattan grew abundantly in the hills near Caticugan;

[1] [see pp. 640-645 -- Analyst]

[2] [See pp. 586A and B, cat. 116 -- Analyst]